

AGENDA ITEM VI B

UPDATE ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

**MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
B.S. IN ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its meeting of September, 2001, the Board of Regents acted as follows:

Approval is granted for the request from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to reconfigure its first-professional degree program in Architecture. Accordingly:

- 1. The existing Bachelor of Architecture program (CIP Code 04.0101) is hereby terminated;**
- 2. A pre-professional B.S. program in Architectural Studies program (CIP Code 04.9999) is hereby conditionally approved; and**
- 3. A first-professional Master of Architecture program (CIP Code 04.0101) is conditionally approved.**

All of the above actions shall be effective Fall semester, 2002. By October 1, 2002, the University shall submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education a progress report updating efforts of the University to addresses weaknesses and problematic areas which the external consultant identified.

At its meeting October 24, 2002, the Board of Regents acted as follows:

The Board of Regents receives the 2002 Progress Report from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Relative to Implementation of the Master of Architecture and B.S. in Architectural Studies Programs. The next progress report shall be due October 1, 2003.

Quoting from the staff analysis of the progress report approved above, the following is relevant:

Two areas remain somewhat problematic. The faculty to student ratio is too large. It is not clear that faculty replacements planned for later this year will reduce this ratio

to an acceptable level. Additional new faculty lines may be needed or the University may have to reconsider the numbers of student admitted into any and/or all Architecture programs. The low numbers of assistantships is also troubling (and their amounts were not provided). There was also no indication of tuition remission scholarships. Additional student support appears to be warranted.

Hence, the summary which follows focuses on concerns indicated above.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Faculty

Two of three faculty vacancies have been filled. One of these new faculty members has been added to the graduate faculty. A search to fill the existing vacancy continues, with hope that it will be filled by the Fall of 2004. A new line in the College of Arts, Assistant to the Dean, has been created and filled to develop an Office of Student Services. This will lighten the advising load of the Director of the School of Architecture and Design, facilitate program administrative processing, as well as relieve the secretary to the School of some tasks.

Enrollment in the three programs is shown in the table below. Projected enrollment is italicized.

Program	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
M Arch	5	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>20</i>
BS Arch Studies	122	<i>200</i>	<i>235</i>	<i>270</i>
B Arch	156	<i>76</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>5</i>
Total	283	<i>286</i>	<i>285</i>	<i>295</i>

Assistantships

The School of Architecture and Design has four graduate assistantships for AY 2003-04, an increase of one assistantship from the prior year. For the spring semester of 2004, two of these are Teaching Assistantships which are awarded to M Arch students who help with teaching at the undergraduate level. This frees faculty for teaching in the graduate program. It should be noted that the M Arch program is considered a five year program; only for the fifth year of the program would students be considered to be at the “graduate” level.

University sponsored assistantships include tuition waiver and stipend. Faculty are in the progress of seeking external funding and including graduate assistantships in future grant proposals. For the current academic year, the institution matched one externally funded assistantship with an additional internally funded assistantship. This program may continue in the future.

Physical Resources

While not listed as a concern in the previous staff summary, one condition found deficient by National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB) during its initial accreditation visit in July, 2002 was the nature of physical resources. The institution reports that space previously occupied by the University Art Museum, which is moving into a new facility, has been reserved for the School of Architecture and Design. New student work-spaces are being procured for this area for the spring of 2004. This additional 2,720 square feet of space and furniture will satisfy the NAAB requirement for “one student/one desk” and represents nearly \$100,000 for furniture and renovations associated with meeting NAAB standards.

STAFF SUMMARY

NAAB recently accredited the new M Arch program for a full, six-year term; however, NAAB also required a “focused visit” during 2005 to determine whether deficiencies in human resource needs and physical facilities have been appropriately addressed.

While physical facilities concerns appear to have been resolved, the faculty to student load has grown from 1:18.5 in 2002 to 1:30 in 2004, more than twice the NAAB average of 1:13.5. This figure includes students currently enrolled in the B.S. program which is not accreditable by NAAB, but appears to be counted, nevertheless, in NAAB calculations in this area. This situation, therefore, may be troubling. Hence, the staff is concerned that current plans for filling the one existing faculty vacancy will not adequately reduce the faculty to student ratio to acceptable levels. Additional faculty lines or restricted student enrollment may be needed.

The staff interprets four assistantships as an adequate number for current student numbers; however, if enrollment in the M Arch program increases as projected in the chart above, additional assistantships will be needed.

Given these concerns, the staff deems that an additional progress report should be required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the 2003 Progress Report from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Relative to Implementation of the Master of Architecture/B.S. in Architectural Studies Programs. The next progress report shall be due January 1, 2005.